

Just recently, Intratec, famous for the TEC-9 semi-automatic, introduced the CAT-9 semi-automatic pistol. This new weapon weighs just 18 ounces and measures 5.74 inches overall, perfect for any criminal. Not only is it relatively cheap and very small, it has the capability to shoot seven rounds of 9 mm ammunition in a short amount of time. Guns and Ammo found that it is "designed for relative ease of concealment and close range shooting." I know of no sporting or defensive purposes that demand such features. This gun, too, would be banned under the import criteria but instead is in full production today.

Crime with guns is increasing. Saturday Night Specials, because of their design, are clearly the favorite weapon of criminals. H.R. 250 uses the same criteria ATF established for imports and does not apply to all handguns. Therefore, it is both easily implemented and easily enforced.

The basic fact is that passage of such legislation is critical to the survival of too many people for us to ignore.

HONORING THE WARSAW HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dedicated and committed group of young people from my home district. This talented group of 24 young men and women make up the Warsaw, Indiana High School Marching Percussion Ensemble. Marching with the Tiger Pride Marching Band, the ensemble has earned distinction repeatedly over the years, and continues to strive for, and achieve, the highest standard of quality.

Having garnered numerous honors and titles in their young careers, the ensemble recently capped their success by winning the 1994 Grand National Indoor Percussion Championship at the Bands of America Competition in Indianapolis. Making their achievement all the more impressive is that this is the third consecutive year that the Warsaw ensemble has won the national championship. This is something in which they can and should take tremendous pride. This is also something in which our community can take great pride.

In addition to spending numerous hours in rehearsal, these 24 young people carry full class loads, study hard, belong to clubs, attend church with their families, and enjoy time with their friends. They have worked hard and deserve our recognition, support, and commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to applaud Band Director Marty Becker and Percussion Director Mickey Ratliff who have given so much of their time, energy, insight and enthusiasm to the young people of the Warsaw community. Clearly, they have used their position as teachers to the great benefit of their students, and I and the community they serve are grateful.

NATIONAL APPRECIATION DAY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 1995, America will celebrate National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. It is certainly appropriate that we acknowledge the institutions that are preparing our young people for fulfilling lives of service, dedication, and achievement.

Over the years, this Nation's Catholic schools have educated thousands of students. They have given each child a high academic, value-added education that inspired him or her to grow and become a person of integrity and service. All students, regardless of race, creed, color, or gender are given the opportunity to learn, succeed and become contributors to the community.

This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Schools You Can Believe In. I am especially proud that a Catholic school in my district, Saint Athanasius in Bensonhurst truly embodies this idea. I would like to take this opportunity to commend them for the exceptional job they have done educating the young people in our community. Saint Athanasius School serves as an example in our community of how to prepare students to believe in themselves.

I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join with me in wishing Saint Athanasius and this Nation's Catholic schools many more years of success. It is clear that the men and women educators of these schools understand the value in investing in this country's most precious resource, our children.

THE "MUST-CARRY" REPEAL

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to repeal the must-carry provision of the Cable Act of 1992 in order to restore consumer choice.

The must-carry provision is a so-called consumer provision of cable regulation. However, it is the consumers who are hurt most by it. Cable television consumers are denied the ability to view many stations simply because the hands of the cable operators are tied by the must-carry rule.

Must-carry states that one-third of each cable operator's channel capacity must be reserved for local commercial broadcast stations. Local is defined as the area of dominant influence, or the closet metropolitan area. In many suburban areas, there is more than one major city nearby. In such cases, all stations from the closest city, regardless of appeal, must be carried, often at the expense of more popular stations from another city.

This legislation is a straightforward repeal of the must-carry rule. It will allow cable operators to listen to the wishes of consumers. The American people are sick and tired of Government telling them what to do. Repealing the must-carry rule is a step in the right direction.

DUTY DRAWBACK DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 1995

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 1-year anniversary of the devastating Northridge earthquake, some businesses in the Los Angeles area are still struggling to pick up the pieces and get back on their feet.

Despite the commendable efforts of FEMA Director James Lee Witt, former SBA Administrator Erskine Bowles, and HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, a number of earthquake-damaged companies are at serious risk of falling through the cracks. Some of these face unique and unanticipated circumstances, and have thus been unable to qualify for the standard Federal disaster assistance programs.

To help one small subset of these needy businesses, I am once again introducing legislation that would provide an 18-month extension of the duty drawback filing period for businesses that sustain damage in a Presidentially declared disaster. Under current law, the Commissioner of Customs has no discretion to provide such an extension even if, through no fault of their own, businesses lose their records in a fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other disaster.

This legislation would have an almost negligible budgetary impact, yet would be of crucial importance to the small number of businesses unable to file drawbacks when disaster strikes. The Customs Service, the Treasury Department, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative have all signaled their support for this legislation, and I hope it will be enacted by the Congress in a timely fashion.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIAL RULE FOR EXTENDING TIME FOR FILING DRAWBACK CLAIMS.

Section 313(r) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1313(r)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3)(A) Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in paragraph (1), the Customs Service may extend the time for filing a drawback claim for a period not to exceed 18 months, if—

"(i) the claimant establishes to the satisfaction of the Customs Service that the claimant was unable to file the drawback claim because of an event declared by the President to be a major disaster on or after January 1, 1994, and

"(ii) the claimant files a request for such extension with the Customs Service within 1 year from the last day of the 3-year period referred to in paragraph (1).

"(B) If an extension is granted with respect to a request filed under this paragraph, the periods of time for retaining records set forth in subsection (t) of this section and section 508(c)(3) shall be extended for an additional 18 months.

"(C) For purposes of this paragraph the term 'major disaster' has the meaning given such term in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2))."